

worked. Mike is the author of five patents, again, bringing leadership, value and innovation to the business community.

Mike has also contributed to his community through his service on many boards in Medina County, in so doing, he has touched the lives of many in his community. I'm sure the Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce, Hospice of Medina County, Southwest General Health Center and Blue Coats of Medina County will all agree with me that Mike Baach has made his home, Medina County, a better place to live for all its citizens through his tireless devotion and service. It is the considered opinion of many that Mike's wisdom, compassion and integrity define his character. Medina County, and indeed, the State of Ohio and the Nation itself are better places because of Mike Baach's presence and contributions.

The 115th Congress acknowledges the many achievements of Mike Baach. I thank him for his friendship and wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIMPLEX MANUFACTURING COMPANY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Simplex Manufacturing Company in my district in Auburn, New York.

Founded in 1918 by William J. Merritt, Simplex Manufacturing Company began as a leather goods manufacturer. Over the years, however, Simplex has evolved with market trends, and now provides a variety of essential, modern products that are often custom-made for a variety of machines and devices. Today, the parts crafted by Simplex are used in all manner of devices from motors and hand tools, to security systems which keep families and businesses safe from harm.

Throughout the years, Simplex has become a staple of the Central New York business community. In this day and age, while many companies have chosen quantity over quality, Simplex has remained dedicated to producing an excellent product. I am proud to congratulate the owners and employees of Simplex 100 successful years in business.

HONORING JOSEPH DIANTONIO OF MILFORD, MA

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph DiAntonio, a lifelong resident of the Fourth District of Massachusetts, who passed away in April after a life marked by courage, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to public service.

Born in Milford, Massachusetts in 1927, Mr. DiAntonio, or "Joe D" to those who knew him,

graduated from Milford High School in 1945 before enlisting in the Navy as our nation was gripped in the Second World War. After returning from service, Mr. DiAntonio began his career with the Rosenfeld Concrete Company where he would eventually retire as plant and credit manager.

In Milford, Mr. DiAntonio will be missed at Town Council meetings where he served fifty-two years as a member, taking on leadership roles as Chairman of the Town Finance and Library Building Committees as well as Trustee of the Milford Geriatric Authority.

A proud son of Italian immigrants, Mr. DiAntonio was a member of the Italian-American War Veterans Post of Milford, where he worked to honor the service and sacrifices of past and present veterans of Italian heritage, and the impact that first generation Americans continue to have on our country.

On May 4th, Joseph DiAntonio was laid to rest with military honors surrounded by his six children, twelve grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren. The Fourth District was proud to have a neighbor like "Joe D", and from the Halls of Congress, I offer our condolences to those who knew him.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HALLS HILL STATION NO. 8

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Arlington, Virginia's Halls Hill Station No. 8, which is being honored at the African American Fire Fighters Historical Society's 8th Annual Salute Dinner. As the Civil War ended, freed slaves in Arlington set out to build a community and independent life. Many settled in the Halls Hill neighborhood, making it North Arlington's first African American community. There they built a supportive community with sprawling businesses, civic organizations, and support services. One of the most respected and treasured of those service organizations is Fire Station No. 8.

In 1918, twenty years after Arlington County's first firefighting company was established, a group of African American men formed a volunteer fire department to bring fire protection to the African American community of Halls Hill. At the time, the Halls Hill African American community, which began as a home for freed slaves after the Civil War, was kept separate from adjacent white communities, in part, by an 8-foot wooden fence. Initially, the Halls Hill firefighters had only a 60-gallon chemical tank—pulled by six men over unpaved and muddy roads—that was housed on the grounds of the John Langston Elementary School. In 1925, the seven-year-old Halls Hill Station No. 8 held its first elections and, through door-to-door canvassing campaigns, raised enough money to procure the Station's first motor-driven engine. In 1927, the Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department was officially incorporated and moved to a new location on Lee Highway, which featured a telephone by which fire calls were routed through the chief operator of the local telephone company.

With Arlington County starting to fund equipment and utilities for volunteer fire companies, the 1930s proved much more rewarding for the previously neglected Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department. With County support, the Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department obtained its first pumper as well as a 1929 Diamond-T truck. The Hicks family, who owned several community businesses, also offered property for a new firehouse, which quickly became a de facto community center for local news and conversation. The new firehouse featured such attractions as a pay phone and soda machine as well as a blaring siren to summon volunteers to the firehouse. Around this time, the Arlington County Fireman's Association was founded as a network for Arlington fire companies, but did not include Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

In 1940, Arlington County began funding professional fire staff to work within the volunteer companies. Eleven years later, Halls Hill became the last firefighting company in the county to be assigned paid professionals. The original professional firefighters assigned in 1951 to Station No. 8, in order of hire, were Alfred Clark, Julian Syphax, George McNeal, and Archie Syphax. Later, Hartman Reed, James K. Jones, Carroll Deskins, Henry Vincent, Carl Cooper, Ervin Richardson, Jimmy Terry, Wilton Hendricks, Bill Warrington and Bobby Hill were also hired. As a segregated station, Halls Hill Station No. 8 sought to prioritize serving the immediate community. However, firefighters assigned to the Station were routinely dispatched on calls outside their first due area. On these dispatches, firefighters were often berated, even by the residents the firefighters were attempting to help.

Career advancement opportunities for African American firefighters at that time were limited to Fire Station No. 8. Nonetheless, in 1957, Alfred Clark became the first African American fire captain in the County and continued to serve at Station No. 8. His daughter Kitty recalls that when the station later became integrated in the 1960s, some white firefighters said they "would not serve under a 'Ni . . .'" and even wrote it on the chalkboard. The battalion chief, upon arriving, ordered it removed and told the white firefighters they will serve and respect Captain Clark."

As the main social and community center for families of the Halls Hill African American community, Station No. 8 was on the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. There, community members advocated for a variety of causes, including the desegregation of public schools and integration of lunch counters.

In 1962, construction began on a new Station No. 8 facility, which served a growing Arlington County population. However, in 1999, a study for the County Manager identified Station No. 8 for possible "relocation, consolidation, replacement or closure." In 2016, after community pushback, the Arlington County Board voted to build a new Fire Station No. 8 at the Lee Highway site where the Station remains today. 100 years after its formation, Station No. 8 has a fully paid staff that serves the very community that preserved Station No. 8 as a Halls Hill institution. Arlington County has committed to building a new Station No. 8 that will memorialize the countless people who have sustained this community asset.